

In re Patent Application of:
FLICK
Serial No. 10/043,077
Filing Date: JANUARY 9, 2002

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, and at least one vehicle device connected thereto, the vehicle control system comprising:

at least one uniquely coded transmitter to be carried by a user;

a receiver at the vehicle for receiving signals from said at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one vehicle device and connected to said receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one vehicle device via the data communications bus,

being switchable to a learning mode and when in the learning mode learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

causing an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned by causing an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

2. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to

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cause the indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned.

3. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 2 wherein the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

4. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 2 wherein the vehicle further comprises an instrument panel carrying the vehicle indicator.

5. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

6. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle alarm indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus.

7. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

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8. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 7 wherein the controllable vehicle device is associated with starting of a vehicle engine.

9. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 7 wherein the controllable vehicle device is associated with vehicle door locks.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim [[10]] 1 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

12. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim [[10]] 1 wherein said controller causes an indication for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

13. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said controller further causes an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

14. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said controller further causes an indication of a change in a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

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15. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said controller further causes an indication of a change in a code of at least one learned uniquely coded transmitter.

16. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one uniquely coded transmitter comprises at least one uniquely coded remote transmitter.

17. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one uniquely coded transmitter comprises at least one uniquely coded transponder transmitter.

18. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, and a vehicle indicator connected thereto, the vehicle control system comprising:
at least one uniquely coded transmitter to be carried by a user;

a receiver at the vehicle for receiving signals from said at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one vehicle device and connected to said receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

communicating with the vehicle indicator via said data communications bus to cause an indication of

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whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned.

19. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

20. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises an instrument panel carrying the vehicle indicator.

21. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

22. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a vehicle alarm indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus.

23. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

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24. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of the at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

25. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 24 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

26. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 24 wherein said controller causes an indication for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

27. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

28. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

29. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 18 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a code of at least one learned uniquely coded transmitter.

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30. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, and at least one vehicle device connected thereto, the vehicle control system comprising:

a biometric characteristic sensor for sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one vehicle device and connected to said biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one vehicle device via the data communications bus,

learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

causing an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

31. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to cause the indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

32. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 31 wherein the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of

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a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

33. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 31 wherein the vehicle comprises an instrument panel carrying the vehicle indicator.

34. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

35. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle alarm indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus.

36. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

37. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 36 wherein the controllable vehicle device is associated with starting of a vehicle engine.

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38. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 36 wherein the controllable vehicle device is associated with vehicle door locks.

39. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

40. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

41. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

42. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

43. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

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44. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.

45. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said biometric sensor comprises at least one of a fingerprint sensor, a voice pattern sensor, a facial pattern sensor, a skin pattern sensor, a hand pattern sensor, a venous pattern sensor and a retinal pattern sensor.

46. (Currently amended) A vehicle control method for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, and at least one vehicle device connected thereto, the method comprising:

receiving signals from at least one uniquely coded transmitter at a receiver at the vehicle; and

using a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one vehicle device and connected to the receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one vehicle device via the data communications bus,

switching the controller to a learning mode
and learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

causing an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned by

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causing an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

47. (Original) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to cause the indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned.

48. (Original) A method according to Claim 47 wherein the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

49. (Original) A method according to Claim 47 wherein the vehicle further comprises an instrument panel carrying the vehicle indicator.

50. (Original) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

51. (Original) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle alarm indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus.

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52. (Original) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 46 wherein said controller further causes an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

55. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 46 wherein said controller further causes an indication of a change in a number of learned uniquely coded transmitters.

56. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 46 wherein said controller further causes an indication of a change in a code of at least one learned uniquely coded transmitter.

57. (Previously presented) A vehicle control method for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, and at least one vehicle device connected thereto, the method comprising:

sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user from a biometric characteristic sensor; and

using a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one vehicle device and connected to said biometric

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characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus
for

communicating with the at least one vehicle
device via the data communications bus,

learning the unique biometric characteristic
to permit control of a vehicle function by the user,
and

causing an indication of whether at least
one new unique biometric characteristic has been
learned.

58. (Previously presented) A method according to
Claim 57 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a
vehicle indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with
the vehicle indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to
cause the indication of whether at least one new unique
biometric characteristic has been learned.

59. (Original) A method according to Claim 58 wherein
the vehicle indicator comprises at least one of a light, a
visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message
generator, and an audible signal generator.

60. (Original) A method according to Claim 58 wherein
the vehicle further comprises an instrument panel carrying the
vehicle indicator.

61. (Original) A method according to Claim 57 wherein
the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle sensor; and

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wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

62. (Original) A method according to Claim 57 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a vehicle alarm indicator; and wherein said controller communicates with the vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus.

63. (Original) A method according to Claim 57 wherein the at least one vehicle device comprises a controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the vehicle data communications bus.

64. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

65. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

66. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

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67. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.